

FRANCE.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PARIS, April 2, 1857.

My last week's letter was much taken up with American subjects. I am sorry to give them again some paragraphs this week. But how can I help myself? Our countrymen here have been talking ever since last Saturday of the failure of the well-known American banking house of Greene & Co., in Place St. George. I am told, I do not know how correctly, that they failed for about three million francs. It will prove an unpleasant incident of travel to many Americans who have deposits with, and letters of credit on that house, and may find themselves suddenly short of funds in a strange place anywhere between St. Petersburg and Jerusalem.

Here and there this is the report of the nearly hopeless condition of Crawford the sculptor. His malady, as you are aware, is a tumor, said to be of a cancerous nature, growing behind the eye, and crowding on the brain. His physicians dare not attempt an operation, and give no encouragement to the hope of a cure by any means. At the risk of being guilty of an indiscretion and of wounding the sensibility of an estimable artist, I cannot omit raising here the generous devotion of Mr. Terry, who shut up his atelier, where he was busy with abundant orders, to accompany and care for Mr. Crawford on the painful journey from Italy to Paris.

But still worse than this, putting us Americans to shame, are the articles and paragraphs in all the Paris journals reporting the facts as they were (and judging them as they deserve to be judged) of Mr. Busted's conduct before Commissioner Betts. When I left New-York, Mr. Busted was about to prosecute THE TRIBUNE and the *Courrier des Etats-Unis* for telling the truth about him. I thought myself that nothing could be more painful to him, and myself conceive, though not sympathize with his conduct on the occasion. But what would the Busted say and feel were he to read (does he read French, the Busted?) what the Paris papers say of him? Paris is courteous, more so, it is thought, than American journalism. But Parisian journalism does not hesitate to express its contempt for Mr. B. in language which I dare not here translate, for fear of drawing down on you another threat of prosecution from the injured B. Paris journalism has no hesitation in calling the B. not only a heavy bungler and an "idiot," but a "man of three letters." Is the Busted a "man of three letters?" Is he at home in the classics? Does the Busted read Plautus? So, to repeat, I pray, the last three lines, lest that *triumphant litterateur* vituperate me and prosecute you for the imprinting of the same. Would it be safe to quote a few lines from one of a series of articles in the *Union des Etats-Unis* on the administration of the United States?—Articles, by the way, well worth your consideration—indeed, by Busted's performances are treated of seriously and at length! The writer says: "We must add, for the honor of the press of New-York, that all the journals of that city, with one solitary exception, have branded the conduct of Mr. Busted as a 'national disgrace.'"

Yes. Thanks to Busted's, and Congressional ruffianisms, and Kansas abominations, and steam explosions, and Ostend Conferences, and Foreign Legations, and New-York streets (their dirtiness and insecurity), and filibustering in general, we have fallen in European estimation. Ten years ago the simple designation of American citizen was a little better word to the traveler who bore it on his passport, than a ribbon in the button-hole or a cross on the breast. It was of pointed value as a means of access to such society and such places as an intelligent traveler might desire to frequent and visit. To-day, it seems to me this is not the case. The material property and the arduousness and commercial importance are yearly better and better understood, and of course, in a sort, respected. We find also little difficulty in obtaining through the vigorous and valuable interposition of our efficient representative near the Court (last evening a gentleman at Madame Busque's round table, was regretting the distance which he must traverse from his hotel—the Rue de la Paix—to remote quarters, when our Legation is settled) of the Tuileries, in obtaining the flattering privilege of bowing and ducking, and even dancing (awkwardly, in presence of majesty. In fact, I am inclined to think sometimes that Napoleon III. takes a malicious pleasure in facilitating such voluntary degradation of American Republicans. As I am assured, some of the French guests (not alone Americans) at our Minister's droll soirees, have almost forgotten the obligations of courtesy, and are ordinarily as disrespectful, in the excess of their amusement at the incongruities and unsuccessful mimicries of high French style, so patent in those entertainments. But your plain, quiet traveler, who desires to learn something from his European experience, has not to-day, I fear, the same advantages with gentlemen and the guardians and heads of various institutions, which he carried with him some years ago by mere virtue of his quality as American citizen. For the mere traveling convenience of the thing, I think to-day I had as lief, in passing through Europe, had from Moscow, Naples or London, as from our own "ger-rat and gel-olious old nitty." Col. Lafayette Washington Bowie, as Sala calls him, has somewhat fallen, and I am sorry to say it, deservedly, in public esteem. We still hold a high place in the regard of shop and inn-keepers.

The last American, who has been treated with respect at the Tuileries, is our Scotch compatriot, Mr. Hume. You will tell me that I spoke of him at sufficient length in my last letter. Yet let me add, for he is still the talk of the town, one or two anecdotes of his palatial experience. And here, since I speak of the Tuileries, pray let the readers of THE TRIBUNE, who are in a sort, disinterested, and unbiassed, confession, understand that I have not been inside that building since January, 1857, when the then President of the Republic had the grace to send me an invitation through Mr. Sanford, which, he being but President, and no personal presentation being necessary, I thought I could accept with no loss of self-respect; for I then held that I had as much right to enter the hereditary palace of the rulers of France as Louis Napoleon himself. And furthermore, though I read occasionally the gossiping feuilletons of the *Independence Belge* and the pages of *Figaro*, and of other *soi-disant* amusing Paris papers, I have not personal acquaintance with a single distinguished man of letters, or a fourth-rate actress, or a niece or cousin, tenth removed, of a general or of other personage of note in all Paris. To make a clean breast of it: I do not frequent the first society, though it is always wide open to correspondents of American newspapers. Pretty much all that I know of it, its curious anecdotes and manners and amusing eccentricities, is learned from French feuilletons, which, doubtless, are as familiar with the manners and customs of the grand world as Mr. G. W. M. Roy holds is familiar with the private life of George Th. Fourth. With such pretentious confession, put such faith as you will in what I have to say of Hume at the Tuileries. It seems that among his wonderful powers he possessed the faculty of evoking the shades of the great dead. Accordingly Alexander the Great, Caesar and the classical notabilities presented themselves at his call and the Emperor's desire. Then Napoleon the First was asked for. Attending courtiers thought it fit to turn their backs when the interview between uncle and nephew was announced; but they report that they heard a gurgle in the throat of his present Majesty, as though the great Napoleon were clutching him by the throat; and our imaginative attendant thinks he caught the word "poison" (blackguard), uttered by the unseen shade of the great Emperor. Next came Louis Philippe, and the same superior, from whom, through devious channels, I have the report of the choking scene, avers that on only turning his head he observed the actual monarch of France rubbing that part of his person which (in inactive Christians) Baxter proposed to boost.

Apocryphal of nothing. Méry writes in his last feuilleton of the *Presse*, that he passed the other Saturday evening with Rossini, in company with three or four acquaintances, whose names he gives as vouchers of the fact. The conversation turned upon an album which contained some remarkable designs of scenes in Jerusalem—the fourteen stations of the

via Dolorosa. Rossini maintained that Jerusalem properly the residence of the Pope. Méry remarks that in the fourteenth century the Papal capital was transferred in fact from Rome to Avignon. Whereupon Rossini, who kept turning the leaves of the album, suddenly exclaimed: "I have done something since William Tell, but I promise to 'embrace a new work the day that Pius IX. will 'visit Jerusalem.' Méry builds on this plan, and hopes that the great composer meditates some grand new work.

Are you, on the other side of the Atlantic, at all interested in the comet? It is a great matter of talk, among the innocents, of fear, here in Paris. My friend Cranch has sketched, apropos of this comet, its advent next June is exciting, a half dozen of immensely amusing illustrations of the effects of its visitation to our sphere.

General Todleben, the gallant defender of Sevastopol, is soon expected in Paris. The Grand Duke Constantine is also looked for. The rumor of the visit of the Czar Alexander is now considered as only a rumor.

GREAT BRITAIN.

DINNER TO MR. THACKERAY AT EDINBURGH.

From The London Times.

Mr. Thackeray was invited to dinner on Thursday evening, April 2, in the new Royal Hotel, Edinburgh. The company comprised many of the most distinguished names connected with literature, science and the fine arts in Scotland. Lord Neaves occupied the chair, the croquet being Mr. Stirling of Keir, M. P.

The Chairman proposed "the health of Mr. Thackeray," their distinguished and honored guest. His Lordship paid an eloquent and graceful tribute to the merits of Mr. Thackeray, and entered into a lengthened review of his works and style, and pronounced a high eulogium on his talents and his character. He defended the distinguished author's recent lectures from the charge of disloyalty, contending that in dealing with such a subject the voice of truth should not be stifled by the flattery and conclusion by remarking on the philosophical and benevolent spirit that characterized all his writings.

Mr. Thackeray, in reply, said—My Lord Neaves and gentlemen, I have to thank you as best I may for the immense kindness and hospitality with which you have been pleased to receive me, and for the extraordinary and generous welcome which I have had here, which I feel me to be a great honor and a great pleasure. I have been roaming through Scotland. Wherever I have been, from Dumfries to Inverness, I can assure you that I have met with a welcome as kindly almost and as great as your own; at whatever town I have landed I have found the kindest hand to make me welcome, and the most extraordinary sympathy, and goodness, and friendship, and affection—if I may be allowed to say so—shown toward me. (Cheers.) If this kind of reception is to continue—if such hospitality is to go on—I am to be fêted every day in this way, or in a way almost equally good, and I feel that I am a very happy man. I am taking my bread and butter with this hospitality. 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